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Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

5 October 2012

The Honorable Rebecca M Blank
Acting Secretary of Commerce
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RE: Reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List

Aloha Acting Secretary Blank, Dr Lubchenco, and Director Basta

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is writing to support the reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List (SEL). The SEL is a necessary and important component of the process to create national marine sanctuaries. It also serves to recognize the importance of national marine sanctuaries in bringing communities together in efforts to protect special places and cultural and marine resources of local, national, and international significance. The SEL allows communities, stakeholders, and the general public to engage in conversations about the benefits that a national marine sanctuary can bring to local ocean conservation efforts.

The Council believes that communities must have the ability to discuss and decide how a national marine sanctuary can benefit ocean conservation efforts in their particular area. The reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuary Site Evaluation List is necessary to enable communities to engage in these important conversations and associated processes to determine what is right for their coasts.

Again, we urge you to reactivate the SEL and recognize the benefits that national marine sanctuaries can bring to protecting our nation's cultural and marine resources.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Adam A. Pack, Ph.D
Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.